

Ruth and Naomi—Uncommon BFF

Ruth 1-4

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!” Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. The man’s name was Elimelech, his wife’s name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. Ruth 1:1-2

They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, Ruth 1:4

But Naomi said, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? Ruth 1:11

Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.” Ruth 1:15

But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Ruth 1:16

Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.” Ruth 1:17

Developing and maintaining intimate relationships and friendships.

1. Good friendships can develop between people who are very _____ from each other.

Don't try to be a f_____ to your children too soon. Be their parent and the friendship will develop naturally later.

**It's a special friend who will stand by you
for a prolonged time when you're d_____.**

*Friends love through all kinds of weather, and families stick together in all kinds of trouble. **Proverbs 17:17** (The Message)*

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. **Proverbs 3:5-6***

*So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with my servant girls. **Ruth 2:8***

*Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the girls. I have told the men not to touch you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled." **Ruth 2:9***

*At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar." When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over. **Ruth 2:14***

*As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, "Even if she gathers among the sheaves, don't embarrass her. Rather, pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her." **Ruth 2:15-16***

2. True friends give each other _____.

Developing and maintaining intimate relationships and friendships.

*Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with his girls, because in someone else's field you might be harmed." **Ruth 2:22***

*One day Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well provided for? **Ruth 3:1***

*"Maybe it's time to make our move." (The Message) **Ruth 3:1***

*Tonight is the night of Boaz's barley harvest at the threshing floor. **Ruth 3:2***

*Wash and perfume yourself, and put on your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. **Ruth 3:3***

When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do.” Ruth 3:4

All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character. Ruth 3:11

3. Good friends value the c_____ and r_____ the advice that is given.

Developing and maintaining intimate relationships and friendships.

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. Proverbs 15:22

In the middle of the night something startled the man, and he turned and discovered a woman lying at his feet.

“Who are you?” he asked.

“I am your servant Ruth,” she said. “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer.” Ruth 3:8-9

“The Lord bless you, my daughter,” he replied. “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor.

Ruth 3:10

So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, “Don’t let it be known that a woman came to the threshing floor.” Ruth 3:14

When Ruth came to our mother-in-law Naomi asked, “How’d it go my daughter?” She told her everything Boaz had done for her Ruth 3:16

Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.” Ruth 3:18

At this, the kinsman-redeemer said, “Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it.” Ruth 4:6

(Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.) Ruth 4:7

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. Ruth 4:13

weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. Psalm 30:5b
The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth." Ruth 4:14-15

4. Good friends r_____with those who rejoice.

Developing and maintaining intimate relationships and friendships.

Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. The women living there said Naomi has a son. And they name him Obed. And he was the father of Jesse. The father of David Ruth 4:16-17

Key: different, friend, depressed, space, counsel and respect, rejoice